

is poised to become a staggering refugee crisis in the years to come. We only wish that Ken were still with us to help us meet this new challenge.

In newsrooms and humanitarian organizations, in windswept tent cities forgotten by most but never forsaken by Ken, an exceptional, exemplary life is being retold, mourned, and celebrated.●

CONGRATULATING MARK DAVIS

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Mark Davis of Granby, CT, for his 25 years of service in television news on WTNH Channel 8 in Connecticut. Mark has been “on the air” throughout our State in a variety of capacities over the years, and we honor him today for his generous spirit and his impeccable commitment to impartial and informative journalism.

With more than 35 years of broadcasting experience, Mark has taken an evenhanded approach to the news that he delivers with the kind of “plain talk” that engages a broad audience across our State. Mark made his first splash in Connecticut with his acclaimed radio show “Dial Mark Davis” and later as the host of Connecticut’s first morning news show, “Good Morning Connecticut.” He has been awarded several Emmys throughout his career and each stands as a testament to his talent and hard work.

Mark has said one of his favorite quotes of all time comes from U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes, who said that so much in life is more nuanced than it seems because it is “determined by the majority and subject to change.” This attitude captures, in many ways, what makes Mark’s reporting fresh and relevant: though we live in a world where constant and often polarized judgments are made, in the end, nearly everyone and everything is subject to change. Mark’s careful and nuanced presentation of the news reminds us of this important lesson.

Mark Davis is a fairminded and evenhanded journalist. That is one big reason why Connecticut citizens have named him the best television reporter in the State, according to Connecticut Magazine. Mark understands, as the best journalists do, that to be a journalist is to bear witness, and that is no easy task.

Mark has a special place in the hearts and minds of Connecticut citizens. He performs an essential service that is essential to our democratic and liberal society. I am proud to have worked with Mark over the years, to have shared many of the big moments of my career with him, and now to thank and honor him for his continued service to Connecticut.●

REMEMBERING DAVID A. BAKER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to express my sympathy over the

loss of Newton, NH, Deputy Fire Chief David A. Baker. Following more than five decades of distinguished public service, Deputy Baker lost his battle with cancer.

Deputy Baker exemplified a life lived for others. His devotion to the greater Newton community could be seen following the crippling ice storm of December 2008. Despite suffering from severe pain caused by his yet to be discovered cancer, Deputy Baker was instrumental in coordinating efforts to help his community respond and recover from this major natural disaster.

Deputy Baker’s service can be neither overstated nor limited to his work with the Newton Fire Department. During the summer, Deputy Baker, who also owned a successful tree service business, would close his business to help fight wildfires across the United States and Canada in his capacity as a western wildland firefighter. Additionally, he served his State and country as a member of the National Guard in his younger days.

Deputy Baker was always eager to share his loves of fire service and forestry with others. He would often sacrifice his own time for the benefit of others. You could often find him helping students study for an exam or teaching a class on fire attack. Deputy Baker’s role as a mentor was something he held in high esteem, and by the number of firefighters and uniformed personnel who attended his funeral, it is clear that others also had a great deal of respect for what he accomplished.

New Hampshire is proud of citizens such as Deputy Chief David Baker, and his countless actions are worthy of this distinction. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew him, and his generosity will be missed by all.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Newton, NH, Deputy Fire Chief David A. Baker.●

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, 8 years since one of the most devastating attacks in our Nation’s history, we still feel the pain and horror of that terrible day. We will never forget the nearly 3,000 lives lost on September 11, 2001, innocent victims of a heinous and cowardly terrorist attack on our country. We will be forever grateful to the countless first responders and fire fighters who courageously risked their lives to save so many.

In the wake of such a horrific tragedy, we came together to share our loss and seek a greater purpose. Our Nation was founded on the most enduring values of freedom, liberty, and opportunity that have made us resilient during even the greatest trials. We must continue to call on that great strength today, even as we continue to grieve for those we lost.

In West Virginia, we remember Dr. Paul Ambrose of Barboursville and Mary Lou Hague of Parkersburg. Their

lives were taken too soon and their families remain in our hearts and prayers forever. I know that not even time can lessen the emptiness and pain they must feel.

For them, and so many others—parents and children, brothers, sisters, and friends, loved ones who died so needlessly—we pledge to keep our people safe, make our country stronger than ever before, and honor their memories always.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 RELATIVE TO HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION—PM29

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

When I spoke here last winter, this Nation was facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We were losing an average of 700,000 jobs per month. Credit was frozen. And our financial system was on the verge of collapse.

As any American who is still looking for work or a way to pay their bills will tell you, we are by no means out of the woods. A full and vibrant recovery is many months away. And I will not let up until those Americans who seek jobs can find them; until those businesses that seek capital and credit can thrive; until all responsible homeowners can stay in their homes. That is our ultimate goal. But thanks to the bold and decisive action we have taken since January, I can stand here with confidence and say that we have pulled this economy back from the brink.

I want to thank the members of this body for your efforts and your support in these last several months, and especially those who have taken the difficult votes that have put us on a path to recovery. I also want to thank the American people for their patience and resolve during this trying time for our Nation.

But we did not come here just to clean up crises. We came to build a future. So tonight, I return to speak to